1: Meek E, G-5 (1925-1930) 1931
FF38 Katab FF38

512 converse a little, and then go off to the hut of the wife with whom
461 he is sleeping that night.

A woman gets up before sunrise and washes herself at the back of the house, finds some food to give her husband before he goes off to the farm, and prepares the mid-day meal which she takes to her husband. She then goes out collecting firewood, or, if it is the planting-out season, she may spend the afternoon in the planting-out of the bulrush millet in the ridge prepared by her husband. She then returns home and begins cooking the evening meal. Katab women do not work in the fields to the same extent as the Kagoro. Kagoro women clean farms; Katab and Morwa do not.

512 A Katab lad rises soon after his father, and warms himself
857 at the fire, washes, eats a snack of food, and follows his father to the farm. He returns home shortly before his father and talks to his brothers or his mother. A girl, on rising, takes all the dirty calabashes and pots to the river and washes them, goes home, sits at a fire and then has a few snacks of food, which she eats with her mother. She assists her mother to prepare the morning meal and waits at home until her mother returns from taking food to her father. If it is planting-out time she will go with her mother and assist her on the farm.

512 An old man is not in a hurry to rise in the morning. He often
887 forgoes his morning wash, and is not always successful in procuring a snack of food from his daughter-in-law. He sees that the small boys take out the goats and tie them up on good pasture ground for the day. He spends his day sitting about, and may
[292] pass his time weaving one of the grass waterproof capes which every Katab carries in wet weather. An old woman's duties are to tend young children while the mother is working, to sweep the compound and look after it when the other occupants are out. She also goes out to the bush near the village collecting *karkashi*.[1] As for the small boys their main duty is to keep
512 the fire going, or, if it has gone out, to obtain a light from a
857 neighbouring compound; they also take out and bring in the goats. When the crops are well advanced the small boys are given the special task of driving away monkeys and other pests, an arduous duty which requires their presence in the fields from sunrise to sunset.

[1] i.e. leaves for soup-making.

1: Meek E, G-5 (1925-1930) 1931
FF38 Katab FF38

In the dry season the daily round is considerably different. A man on rising usually sits by the fire; and, if he can find nothing with which to break his fast, he waits patiently until the mid-day meal, unless he is shifting his compound or has to repair the old compound, in which case he will be busy the whole day. If he has nothing to do after lunch he may go off to a beer-bout or may betake himself to market, buying perhaps one or two sticks of cooked meat, or some pieces of cassava, which he consumes on the road home. A woman has, however, in the dry season to maintain her activities, drawing water in the early morning, preparing the mid-day meal, collecting wood (some of which she may sell in the market if she wants to purchase anything), and preparing the evening meal.

A youth rises at dawn and sits round a fire. If there is no food going he may betake himself to the bush to try his luck at hunting, returning in time for the mid-day meal. The afternoon is spent in chatting, or in further hunting, or in following up some love affair. The maiden pursues her usual duty of cleaning calabashes and pots in the morning, drawing water and helping her mother to prepare the mid-day meal. The afternoon is spent in amusement; or if she wants to buy some beads she may go off to the bush, collect wood, and sell it in the market. An old woman's duties are confined to putting out grain and household belongings in the sun, looking after small children, and guarding the compound while the others are out. An old man watches for an opportunity to withdraw to a beer festival; failing that he contents himself with weaving bags. Children have nothing to do in the dry season, as boys are then relieved of the duty of chasing away monkeys and of tying up goats, which are now allowed to wander about as they please.

Type of House.—The Katab and their neighbours are distinguished by the peculiar design of their houses, which is illustrated by the following sketches. It will be seen that the house is oval and has a receding roof. This design is said to render the hut more weather-worthy than the ordinary conical hut. I was unable to discover which tribe originated the design, but it is noticeable that among the Kagoro and Ataka many of the huts are still of the conical pattern, which would suggest that the Kagoro and Ataka had copied the oval design from